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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, via the EFS pursuant to 37 CFR §1.8 on the below date:

Date: October 9, 2008 Name: Keith D. Weiss Signature: /Keith D. Weiss/

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Appln. of: Andreas Ackermann et al.

Appln. No.: 10/539,908

Filed: April 18, 2006

For: COVERING MEANS FOR A TOP  
SLAG, METHOD FOR THE  
PRODUCTION THEREOF AND USE  
OF THE COVERING MEANS

Attorney Docket No: 12850-3

Examiner:

Tima Michele McGuthry Banks

Art Unit: 1793

Confirmation No.: 6545

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and more particularly in accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), Applicants hereby submit this Statement and enclose Form PTO-1449, along with a copy of each listed reference for which a copy is required under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2). Pursuant to the undersigned attorney's obligation and duties under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.98(a)(3) and (c), either English language abstracts, partial translations, or full translations are included for patent documents which are not in English for the express purpose of providing a concise explanation of the references to the Patent and Trademark Office with the opportunity to evaluate the same. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's consideration of the attached references and entry thereof into the record of this application.

By submitting this Statement, Applicants are attempting to fully comply with the duty of candor and good faith mandated by 37 CFR §1.56. As such, this Statement is not intended to constitute an admission that any of the enclosed references, or other information referred to therein, constitutes "prior art" or is otherwise "material to patentability," as that phrase is defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a).

Applicants have calculated a processing fee in the amount of \$180.00 to be due under 37 CFR §1.17(p) in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. The Director is authorized to charge Deposit Account 23-1925 as indicated in the Transmittal accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

October 9, 2008

Date

/Keith D. Weiss/

Keith D. Weiss  
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